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Representative Rick Hansen
407 State Office Building
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

February 15, 2023

Dear Chair Hansen and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,
As the Committee reviews the Governor's budget recommendations for the Board of Water and Soil Resources, we write to share our support for proposed investments in programs that will benefit people and nature and support communities across the state. We are particularly pleased to see these proposed appropriations:

- \$17,000,000 one-time and \$480,000 ongoing per year for Accelerated Water Storage and Treatment
- \$13,580,000 ongoing per year for Accelerated Soil Health Practices
- \$9,000,000 one-time and \$1,000,000 ongoing per year for the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP)
- \$22,000,000 one-time and \$400,000 ongoing per year for Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Grasslands/Working Lands Easement Program
- \$15,000,000 one-time and \$710,000 ongoing per year for RIM Peatlands Easement Program
- \$7,100,000 one-time and \$480,000 ongoing per year for Climate Mitigation and Resiliency for RIM Easements

These programs provide multiple benefits that touch all Minnesotans' lives, including carbon sequestration, water quality improvements, water quantity benefits, resiliency including flood mitigation, air quality improvements, and help to preserve biodiversity.

As this committee considers investments that can address climate change and make Minnesota more resilient, we encourage you to include these investments among a suite of other natural climate solutions.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Pinkalla
Government Relations Director
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Government Relations Specialist
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